



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Michigan Man Charged in Major Marijuana Trafficking Ring

United States Attorney Thomas Scott Woodward announced that a federal grand jury indictment was unsealed today charging a Michigan man with operating a major marijuana trafficking operation from Phoenix, Arizona, to Detroit, Michigan, utilizing interstate highways running through Oklahoma.

Kelly Maurice Hill, aka "Shannon Dorr," 20, of Detroit, Michigan, is charged with Conspiracy To Possess with intent to Distribute and Distribution of over 100 Kilograms of Marijuana. A criminal drug trafficking organization allegedly led by Hill, is allegedly responsible for the importation of large amounts of marijuana in hundreds of pounds and kilogram quantities, from sources in Phoenix into the Detroit area, between November 2008 and December 2009. The defendant allegedly recruited drug couriers, often called "mules," to transport marijuana and large amounts of cash in rental vehicles, commercial buses and airlines. The conspiracy first came to the attention of law enforcement in Oklahoma on March 5, 2009, when two of the alleged couriers were stopped by an OHP trooper on I-44 near Stroud, Oklahoma, and a subsequent search of the 2008 Chrysler minivan yielded \$198,980 in cash. In other instances the organization allegedly transported large loads of marijuana in rental vans and trucks hidden under furniture and even Christmas presents. The indictment lists multiple marijuana shipments, including a 177 pound load of marijuana that was interdicted by law enforcement officers in Michigan on December 22, 2009. Another load of 565 pounds of marijuana was brought through Oklahoma on the Turner turnpike in a rental van in June 2009, resulting in the arrest and federal prosecution of two alleged members of Hill's drug trafficking organization.

This case is being investigated by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) in the Northern District of Oklahoma. Law enforcement agencies participating in this continuing investigation are the Drug Enforcement Administration, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Federal Task Force Officers including the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wayne County Michigan Sheriff's Office and a Financial Analyst from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Robert T. Raley, OCDETF, is handling the prosecution of the case for the government.

If the defendant is found guilty of the charges he faces a prison term of not less than 5 years and not more 40 years, and a fine of up to \$2 million.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.